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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/588,350	06/07/2000	Kazuo Matsuyama	0162/00557	8119

30678 7590 07/15/2005

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EXAMINER

ELISCA, PIERRE E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/588,350

Applicant(s)

MATSUYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Pierre E. Elisca

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 27-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 27, 28 and 31-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 29 and 30 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                    | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This office action is in response to Applicant's amendment, filed on 05/13/2005.
2. Claims 1-26 are cancelled and claims 27-33 are added.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 29 and 30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 29 is also objected to because of the following informality. Claim 29, line 3, Applicant is advised to remove the word or pronoun "it". Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 27, 28, 31--33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al. (U.S. pat. No. 6,240,396) and Anderson et al (U.S. pat. No. 6,209,095) in view of Dean et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,182,131).

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As per claims 27, 28 and 31--33 Walker substantially discloses a system/method for managing conditional purchase offers, where an individual searching for a ticket to a particular event may provide a guarantee purchase offer to a plurality of potential sellers (which is seen to read as Applicant's claimed invention wherein it is stated that a method for issuing of an electronic ticket in which user terminal units, issuer units, and account units are interconnected through a communication network) comprising:

transmitting a user account storage address, and a demand for ticket issuance from a user terminal unit to an electronic ticket unit, the demand including a user identifier (see., fig 5C, col 4, lines 62-67, col 5, lines 1-4);

causing the issuer unit to transmit the demand for issuance to an account unit which controls the account storage address of a respective user; causing the issuer unit to access the account storage address of the user (see., abstract, col 7, lines 58-67, col 8, lines 1-62);

causing the accessed account unit to transmit to the issuer unit a certificate of account storage address which guarantees a correspondence relationship between the account storage address assigned to the user and an identifier of the user of the account unit (see., Fig 5C, col 4, lines 62-67, col 5, lines 1-7);

causing the issuer unit to allow said issuer unit to use the identifier of the user contained in the certificate of account storage address upon successful verification (see., abstract, col 8, lines 10-63, specifically wherein it is stated that central controller requests a customer Id and compares the information provided by the user with information already

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stored in customer table 530. If a match is found, central controller retrieves the customer ID);

causing the issuer unit to prepare an electronic ticket inclusive of the user identifier (see., fig 5C, col 4, lines 62-67, col 5, lines 1-7); and

causing the account unit corresponding to the user's account address to store the electronic tickets in said account unit for subsequent retrieval (see., Fig 5C, col 4, lines 62-67, col 5, lines 1-7, table 530, ID or signature. Walker discloses a unique customer identifier for each customer in col 4, lines 62-67, col 5, lines 1-7, specifically wherein said customer database 530 maintains a plurality of records, such as records 546 and 548, each associated with a different customer. Customers registered in customer table 530 may buy tickets, sell tickets or both buy and sell tickets. Customer table 530 stores a unique customer identifier for each customer in field and name and address information in field 534 and 536). Walker further discloses the limitation in claim 29 wherein said electronic rights information should be passed for a ticket examination or not see., abstract, col 8, lines 10-63, specifically wherein it is stated that central controller requests a customer Id and compares the information provided by the user with information already stored in customer table 530. If a match is found, central controller retrieves the customer ID.

Walker fails to explicitly disclose wherein said verifying the certificate account address. However, Anderson discloses a method/system for processing electronic documents. A public signature verification key can sequentially verify the bank's certificate, the account certificate (see., abstract, fig 6, col 27, lines 66 and 67, col 28, lines 1-24.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Walker and including the limitation detailed above as taught by Anderson because this would permit secure transfer of funds from the user's account to the merchant's or issuer's account.

Walker and Anderson fail to disclose Applicant's newly added limitation wherein said account units, each having an account network address assigned or associated to a user.

Dean discloses an account registry for a first network is accessed in response to a selected input in order to obtain account information including a plurality of username (or account associated to a plurality of username) see., abstract, SPECIFICALLY, col 2, lines 21-42. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Walker and Anderson by including the limitation detailed above as taught by Dean because this would verify username uniqueness for the account network.

### ***Conclusion***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pierre E. Elisca whose telephone number is 703 305-3987. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703 305-9769. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Pierre Eddy Elisca

**Primary Patent Examiner**

**July 12, 2005**